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COVER TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 13, 2009

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are in a dangerous economic time. While there have been some indications of new economic growth, experts agree that unemployment will continue to plague Americans through 2010.

Yet the FCC could jeopardize wireless investment with its upcoming announcement on network neutrality. The regulations under consideration are clearly a wrong step that will stifle growth at a time when new jobs and new dollars in the economy are needed most.

For many of us, texting is a foreign language, but for a growing number of African Americans it is the primary way to communicate with friends, family and coworkers. While young people were the quickest to pick up texting, you see lots of parents and even grandparents following suit to stay in touch.

If we did not have a thriving wireless industry that is investing in our neighborhoods, texting and other wireless services would not have become an integral part of our lives.

Wireless service has become a true bridge for many communities with the technologies and advancements that are driving the world today. The number of new devices and services available to all consumers is miraculous and the level of innovation to power these services is tremendous and apparent in our neighborhoods.

Not just consumers are benefiting. Wireless is also driving commerce across communities in ways we could scarcely imagine a few years ago. A merchant at a Milwaukee store can take a picture of an item, upload it, and make a sale to a customer half a world away all from a device in the palm of their hand.

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Wireless service is also driving innovation in healthcare in areas like telemedicine. Today, doctors can use this service to monitor glucose levels for diabetes patients and for many other uses.

Competition among providers is driving these benefits. Choice is the operative word in this marketplace.

Network neutrality regulations are adverse to innovation, investment and job growth. This is true in wireless networks, just as it is true in broadband policy. In each case, heavily regulating the operations of the Internet will damage the broadband progress in my state.

President Obama has noted time and again the importance of infrastructure projects and other job creators. There's no greater example of that than the fast-growing wireless industry, where many competitive companies are building out their networks to bring improved service to consumers. It's also true of broadband networks, which can bring a host of benefits to my constituents through better access to tools supporting education, health care and government access.

Building out networks means jobs, improved quality of life and the long-term infrastructure we need to build on our local economies. Thus, it is absolutely critical that the FCC does not impose network neutrality regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reginald Tate', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reginald Tate

RT:db